

Part 2 - Amendments to Claims

61. (New) A cushion for supporting a person in a wheelchair, comprising:
a support structure formed from resilient fused-together plastic beads, the support structure having one human-interface side with a support contour for contacting the person and another wheelchair-interface side for
5 contacting the wheelchair.
62. (New) A cushion as defined in claim 61, wherein:
the resilient plastic beads that have been fused together in a mold which defines the support contour.
63. (New) A cushion as defined in claim 61, wherein:
the fused-together plastic beads define spaces between the beads to establish permeability for air movement within the support structure.
64. (New) A cushion as defined in claim 61, wherein:
a portion of the support structure adjacent to the human-interface side comprises fused-together plastic beads having a first predetermined resiliency; and
5 a portion of the support structure adjacent to the wheelchair-interface side comprises fused-together plastic beads lower base portion of the support structure is formed by resilient plastic beads having a second predetermined resiliency that is different from the first predetermined resiliency.
65. (New) A cushion as defined in claim 65, wherein:
the fused-together plastic beads of the portion adjacent to the human-interface side exhibit a greater degree of predetermined resiliency than the fused-together plastic beads of the portion adjacent to the wheelchair-interface
5 side.
66. (New) A method of fabricating a cushion having a support structure for supporting a person in a wheelchair, comprising:
utilizing a matrix of resilient fused-together plastic beads as the support structure;

utilizing a matrix of resilient fused-together plastic beads as the support structure;

5 shaping a human-interface side into the matrix of resilient fused-together plastic beads, the human-interface side defining a support contour which contacts the person; and

 configuring another side of the matrix of resilient fused-together plastic beads to contact the wheelchair.

67. (New) A method as defined in claim 66, further comprising:

 fusing together the plastic beads into the matrix to form the support structure; and

 molding plastic beads of the matrix of plastic beads into the human-
5 interface side simultaneously with fusing together the plastic beads into the matrix.

68. (New) A method as defined in claim 67, further comprising:

 utilizing plastic beads having different resilient characteristics in different portions of the support structure when fusing together the matrix of plastic beads to form the support structure.

69. (New) A method as defined in claim 68, further comprising:

 locating plastic beads having relatively greater resilient characteristics in a portion of the support structure adjacent to the human-interface side; and

5 locating plastic beads having relatively lesser resilient characteristics in a portion of the support structure adjacent to the wheelchair-interface side.

70. (New) A method of creating a cushion for a wheelchair having a support structure defining a support contour for supporting a person, comprising:

 transporting impression foam to a location of the person;

 positioning the impression foam in a container to protect the
5 impression foam from inadvertent collapse while transporting the impression foam to the location of the person;

exposing the impression foam for collapse at the location of the person;

10 contacting the exposed impression foam with an anatomical portion of the person to collapse a portion of the impression foam into a negative impression of the anatomical portion;

 transporting the impression foam containing the negative impression from the location of the person to a fabrication location which is substantially removed from the location of the person;

15 protecting the negative impression from inadvertent deformation while transporting the impression foam containing the negative impression from the location of the person to the fabrication location;

 fabricating the support structure at the fabrication location;

20 forming the support contour into the support structure when fabricating the support structure; and

 deriving a portion of the support contour formed into the support structure from the impression foam containing the negative impression.

71. (New) A method as defined in claim 70, further comprising:

5 placing the impression foam containing the negative impression within a container to protect the negative impression from inadvertent deformation while transporting the impression foam containing the negative impression from the location of the person to the fabrication location.

72. (New) A method as defined in claim 71, further comprising:

 utilizing the same container to transport the impression foam to the location of the person as to transport the impression from containing the negative impression from the location of the person to the fabrication location.

73. (New) A method as defined in claim 72, further comprising:

 obtaining the negative impression while the impression foam remains in the container.

74. (New) A method as defined in claim 71, further comprising:
transporting by mail the impression foam containing the negative
impression from the location of the person to the fabrication location.

75. (New) A method as defined in claim 70, wherein the person has a
5 wheelchair with a seat support structure and the cushion will be used with the
wheelchair, the method further comprising:

positioning the impression foam on the seat support structure of the
wheelchair; and

10 obtaining the negative impression by contacting the anatomical
portion of the person with the impression foam while the impression foam is on the
seat support structure in a manner similar to the interaction of that anatomical
portion of the person with the cushion when the wheelchair is used with the
cushion.

76. (New) A method as defined in claim 75, further comprising:
moving the person through a range of movement while the person is
contacting the impression foam to create the negative impression.

77. (New) A method as defined in claim 76, further comprising:
establishing the range of normal movement to encompass the types
of movement performed by the person when sitting on the cushion during typical
use of the wheelchair.